

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06537 01 OF 02 031402Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9889
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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SUBJECT: TV PROGRAM "FREE PRESS IN SERVICE OF CIA"

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5428, (B) MOSCOW 4589

SUMMARY: SOVIET TV EVENING APRIL 1 BROADCAST SPECIAL
"FREE PRESS IN THE SERVICE OF THE CIA." HALF-HOUR
PROGRAM COVERED RECENT EXPOSES OF CIA IN PRESS AND
BOOKS, FOCUSING ON MISUSE OF CORRESPONDENTS AND NEWS
SERVICES AS COVERS FOR CIA ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST
SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES. PROGRAM
DETAILS CHURCH SENATE INVESTIGATION OF CIA ABUSES AND
REVELATION OF ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE ARTICLE AND REVIEWS
ESPIONAGE CHARGES AGAINST FIVE U.S. CORRESPONDENTS
WHO RECENTLY SERVED IN MOSCOW. SUBSTANCE OF TV PROGRAM
IS BASED LARGELY ON INFORMATION LONG SINCE PUBLIC,
ALTHOUGH PROGRAM INCLUDES PHOTOS AND FILM TAKEN OF SOME
FIVE U.S. JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW, AND CHARGES THEM WITH
WORKING DIRECTLY FOR CIA. EMBASSY IS PROTESTING
UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS AND TONE OF PROGRAM. END
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 06537 01 OF 02 031402Z

SUMMARY.

1. ON APRIL 1, SOVIET TELEVISION CARRIED HALF-HOUR
PROGRAM ENTITLED "FREE PRESS IN THE SERVICE OF THE CIA."
AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HEARINGS
ON CIA ABUSES AND BERNSTEIN ARTICLE IN ROLLING STONE
MAGAZINE SPECIAL MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. CIA AGENTS ARE PLACED IN MANY MEDIA OUTLETS. MORE THAN 800 AGENTS ARE NOW AT WORK. A FORMER CIA DIRECTOR RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE AGENCY INSTRUCTED JOURNALISTS WHAT TO REPORT. NOTING VARIOUS OUTLETS SUCH AS NY TIMES, CSM, AP, UPI, TIME, NEWSWEEK.

3. A MAJOR TASK ORDERED BY CIA IS FOR CORRESPONDENTS TO CONTACT AGENTS IN PLACE IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. MANY OF THE GREAT JOURNALISTIC "STARS" ARE IN THE HIRE OF THE CIA. FOLLOWING ON FORMAL AGREEMENT IN WRITING BY ARTHUR O. SULZBERGER THAT HE CONDONED SUCH ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE CIA AND MEMBERS OF THE NY TIMES, CYRUS SULZBERGER IS DEPICTED AS A CIA AGENT, CERTAINLY WORKING AT ONE WITH THE AGENCY'S PURPOSES.

4. THE ALSOP BROTHERS ARE ALSO DEPICTED AS CIA. JOE IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE HAD PROVIDED INFORMATION TO THE CIA AND WAS HAPPY TO DO SO. HENRY LUCE AND HEDLEY DONOVAN (TIME) ARE MENTIONED AS HAVING AGREED TO ARRANGEMENTS LINKING TIME/LIFE MEN AND THE CIA. TV COMMENTATORS CRONKITE AND CHANCELLOR ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN IN CIA PAY, AND IT'S NOTED THAT THEY DENIED IT. PALEY IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE "COULDN'T RECALL" WHETHER ANY ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE BETWEEN CBS AND CIA, BUT THEN A CBS STAFFER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT'S THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 06537 01 OF 02 031402Z

ONLY TIME PALEY'S MEMORY HAS EVER FAILED.

5. COMMENTATOR SHOWS PICTURE OF DECEMBER 31, 1977 ISSUES OF DER SPIEGEL, SAYING IT CONTAINED ARTICLE ON EAST GERMANY WHICH WAS WRITTEN BY EXPELLED EAST GERMAN DISSIDENT AND MONEY FOR SUCH DISINFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED BY CIA, IN CAHOOTS WITH WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

6. FOR THIRTY YEARS A UK INFORMATION UNIT, NOW "OUT OF BUSINESS", HAD BEEN FEEDING SPECIFICALLY ANTI-SOVIET INFORMATION TO PRESS AND BBC. MORE THAN 100 NEWSMEN WERE IN PAY OF THIS UNIT, INCLUDING ZORZA. A "DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION" HAS INHERITED FUNCTION OF THE DISBANDED UNIT AND MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH THE CIA. THERE ARE ALSO SWEDISH, DANISH AND ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS INVOLVED IN SUCH CONTACTS.

7. SEVERAL CURRENT THEMES PUSHED BY CIA ARE: SOVIET MILITARY THREAT, HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND PLIGHT OF DISSIDENTS. MARCHETTI BOOK ON CIA AND THE CULT OF INTELLIGENCE IS SHOWN WITH THE TEXT SAYING ONE

OF MAJOR TASKS OF CIA IS TO ENCOURAGE DISSIDENTS IN EUROPE. MARCHETTI IS QUOTED AS SAYING ONE GOOD JOURNALIST-AGENT IS WORTH 20 AGENTS.

8. THEN CAME SHOTS OF NATIONAL HOTEL IN MOSCOW AND OF UKRAINA HOTEL SHOWING FOREIGNERS CIRCULATING. COMMENTATOR REMARKS THAT THERE ARE MANY LEGITIMATE FOREIGNERS - DIPLOMATS AND BUSINESSMEN - IN MOSCOW WHO BEHAVE BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO FOLLOW A "PROFESSION OF ANOTHER KIND."

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06537 02 OF 02 031355Z
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9. ATTENTION SHIFTS TO EXAMPLES OF "CIA CORRESPONDENTS AT WORK IN MOSCOW" -- ALFRED FRIENDLY, JR. (FORMER NEWSWEEK BUREAU CHIEF) IS SHOWN WITH SOVIET FRIENDS IN FRONT OF A CHEMICAL INSTITUTE. HIS INFORMATION WAS ALWAYS SENT TO CIA -- WHILE HE WAS IN MOSCOW IT IS SAID. HE'S NOW DIRECTING CIA EFFORTS IN ANTI-SOVIET SLANDER, AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR CSCE COMMISSION (SIC).

-- CHRISTOPHER WREN (FORMER NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU CHIEF):
"UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HE WAS CALLED AWAY, WREN MADE CONNECTION WITH HIS CONTACTS (HIS AGENTS?) ON HIS JOGGING EXPEDITIONS -- NOT ONLY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION BUT TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS." WREN IS SHOWN IN JOGGING COSTUME IN SNOW MEETING SOVIET CONTACT.

-- ROBERT TOTH (FORMER LOS ANGELES TIMES BUREAU CHIEF);
SUCCEEDED IN LEAVING THE SU BEFORE HE COULD BE PROSECUTED.
HE COVERED MATTERS FAR BEYOND THE INTERESTS OF HIS
PAPER. (TOTH WAS NOT GIVEN SPECIAL EMPHASIS, AND THE
PROGRAM SHOWED ONLY ONE PHOTO OF HIM; SHCHARANSKIY
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 06537 02 OF 02 031355Z

WAS NOT MENTIONED.)

-- GEORGE KRIMSKY (FORMERLY OF AP) IS DESCRIBED AS A
COURIER BETWEEN CIA AND VARIOUS DISSIDENTS. IT'S
NOTED THAT HE WAS EXPELLED FROM THE USSR FOR VIOLATIONS
OF CURRENCY LAWS, AN OFFENSE WHICH COULD HAVE
RESULTED IN IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO 8 YEARS.

-- PETER OSNOS (FORMER WASHINGTON POST BUREAU CHIEF) IS
DEPICTED MEETING AN UNIDENTIFIED SOVIET COUPLE AT THEIR
APARTMENT IN BEGOVAYA UL. NOTHING WRONG WITH MEETING
SOVIET CITIZENS, SAYS THE ANNOUNCER, OR EVEN DRIVING
OFF WITH THEM (AS OSNOS IS SHOWN DOING), BUT NOT IF
"THE TRIP ENDS UP WITH AN EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE
INFORMATION IN A REMOTE BLIND ALLEY." OSNOS' CIA TASK
WAS TO REPORT ON SOVIET GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND
ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH PURPOSE OF HINDERING
COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND USSR.

10. PROGRAM ENDS WITH SHOTS OF CHURCH COMMITTEE IN
SESSION, OBVIOUSLY US TV NEWSCASTS, ZEROING IN ON VISUAL
AIDS GIVING OUTLINE OF TASKS ASSIGNED BY CIA TO US
PRESSMEN. "HOW FREE DOES THE US PRESS REMAIN TODAY?"
NOT VERY ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCER WHO SAYS MAJOR US
MEDIA HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH AGENCY'S HAVING
CLEANSED ITSELF. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY A US NEWSMAN
ON CAMERA SAYING CIA AGENTS ARE STILL INFILTRATED AMONG
US PRESS. PROGRAM ENDS BRISKLY, SAYING THAT US MEDIA
HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZING PROVISIONS OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT,
BUT FORGET THAT FINAL ACT ALSO PROVIDES FOR NON-INTERFER-
ENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS. IN CONCLUSION TV
PROGRAM WARNS SOVIET CITIZENS WHO LISTEN TO FOREIGN RADIO
OR READ FOREIGN PRESS TO CONSIDER WHETHER STORIES THERE
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 06537 02 OF 02 031355Z

CONTAINED ARE WRITTEN BY "CLEAN HANDS" OR BY CIA.

11. COMMENT: TV PROGRAM RENEWED AND SHARPENED FOCUS
OF OLD CHARGES AGAINST WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. MESSAGE

TO SOVIET VIEWER WAS CLEARLY - "STAY AWAY FROM CORRESPONDENTS. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED." CERTAINLY THE PROGRAM IMPLIED THAT US JOURNALISTS WORKING FOR THE CIA ARE FULLY SURVEILLED. IN OPINION OF SOME DISSIDENTS, TIMING OF PROGRAM WAS INTENDED TO MAINTAIN LONG-STANDING CAMPAIGN AGAINST WESTERN PRESS AND INCREASE PRESSURE ON CORRESPONDENTS IN MOSCOW IN PARTICULAR. ALTHOUGH SUBJECT OF TV "SPECIAL" BEARS ON EXPECTED CHARGES AGAINST SHCHARANSKIY, NEITHER HE, NOR ANY OTHER SOVIET WAS NAMED IN CONJUNCTION WITH FILMS AND PICTURES OF CORRESPONDENTS ALLEGEDLY MEETING WITH SOVIETS TO COLLECT INFORMATION AND PASS INSTRUCTIONS FOR CIA. NONETHELESS, THIS PRIME-TIME PROGRAM, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH SIMILAR PIECES RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE MASS CIRCULATION PERIODICALS OGANYOK AND KROKODIL (REFTELS), MAY REPRESENT AN EFFORT TO PREPARE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN OPINION FOR THE SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL. IN ANY CASE, THE PROGRAM IS IN KEEPING WITH GENERALLY NASTIER MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE US IN RECENT WEEKS. EMBASSY WILL DELIVER STRONG PROTEST AGAINST POISONING OF ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH CORRESPONDENTS CARRY OUT THEIR LEGITIMATE FUNCTIONS AND ASK THAT NECESSARY STEPS BE TAKEN TO PREVENT REPETITION OF UNSUBSTANTIATED AND FALSE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FIVE FORMERLY MOSCOW BASED CORRESPONDENTS. TOON

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